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Parks and Recreation

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2728 East 171st Street
Westfield, IN 46074
westfield.in.gov

To: Westfield Board of Works

From: Melody Jones

CC: Todd Burtron

Date: June 15, 2012

RE: Park Improvements as of June 2012

Dear Board Members:

The hot dry weather is keeping the Park Maintenance Division very busy with watering trees and repairing irrigation. Despite the dry conditions the flowers and turf in the irrigated areas seem to be doing well throughout the park system. Newly planted trees are not fairing as well. We hope Mother Nature will provide some relief soon.

We have experience continuous delays with the completion of the park entrance signs due to a subcontractor. CSI Signs has now fired that subcontractor and assures us the signs will be completed soon.

PARKS

Asa Bales

Irrigation repairs continued to be worked on throughout the month. The wood bees have been sprayed twice in all shelters.

Preparations are being made for WR4. We want to make sure Asa looks great for this huge community event.

The Herron Art School student is finishing her sculpture that is to be installed at the east entrance to Asa Bales Park in June or early July. The footers have been poured. Coordination continues with the thermoplastic companies.

An Eagle Scout, Alec Brooks is researching installing a 9 whole disc golf course at Asa Bales Park.

Armstrong

We have contracted with Margretta Peterson, our former intern to continue with the concept plans for Armstrong Park. We plan to meet with the

Westfield Lions Club and the Countryside community in July to gain their input for the park design.

The electrically transformer box has been painted to cover up the graffiti. New benches and trash receptacles are being installed.

Old Friends Cemetery

We received a \$10,000 grant with the Hamilton County Convention and Visitors Bureau to help fund the interpretive signs for Old Friends. The Request for Quote was sent out last week.

We have two trees under warranty in the park that will be replaced by Becker Landscaping in the fall.

Quaker

The Splash Park opened without a hitch and is running effectively.

Due to the anticipated sale of the water utility we will be investigating a new control system after the closing of the splash park in September.

Freedom Trail

The new Arbor Day trees are being watered regularly and watering bags are being used on the trees large enough to hold them. So far they seem to be doing well.

The parking lot has been crack sealed and restriped.

Simon Moon

Six new picnic tables and two new trash receptacles have been installed in the shelter at Simon Moon. A game table has been installed at the top of the Hill. A seasonal irrigation system has been created using a generator and water from the ponds. (At a cost of less than \$300.) We hope this will help with sustaining the Hill's vegetation.

TRAILS

A request for quotes will go out next Monday for, what we call wing gates. These gates will be located at the high risk road/trail intersections to remind trail users to stop and keep vehicles off the trails. We plan to include 20 gates in the initial installation.

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Cool Creek Trail

Requests for quotes will be going out next week for seven trail identification signs for the new section of Cool Creek Trail that runs along Cool Creek Park Road, Greyhound Pass; 147th Street and continues through Cool Creek Commons Shopping Center. Many residents are not aware that this new trail exists.

Monon Trail

On today's agenda we are requesting the approval for VS Engineering to engineer and design Phase 3 of the Monon Trail. This section of trail currently has a stoned surface. We need to address some drainage concerns and make sure we are meeting all ADA standards. Once this work is completed, if funding is available we plan to pave this section of the Monon Trail from 161st Street to Oak Ridge Road.

Construction of the Monon Trail pedestrian bridge over 146th Street will begin in the next couple of weeks. Reith Riley Construction is the contractor for this Hamilton County project. The Monon will be closed during construction from the Greyhound Pass Trailhead to the Rohrer Road Trailhead. A detour will be provided on Greyhound Pass to Oak Ridge Road to Home Drive to Rohrer Road. Signage has been placed at the trail head. Information has been posted on the City website and Facebook page. November 15th is the expected completion date.

Midland Trace Trail

Letters and quit claim documents have been sent to the owners of four parcels on the Midland Trace Trail east of Carey Road. As part of their zoning commitments they agreed to donate this railroad right of way to the City. Plans include paving from Carey Road east to Gunther this year when these parcels are deeded to the City.

Grand Junction Trail

The parks maintenance team had to rework all the valves on this trail's irrigation system. It is working properly now.

We are trying to finalize a repair solution on the brick section of this trail. We have had three meetings with contractors and design team. We anticipate having a recommendation in the next month.

OTHER ITEMS

Grand Junction

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On Friday, June 15th we closed on the second property in Grand Junction. We will close on two other properties this year. We are talking with six other owners at this time.

We continue to work on a demolition request for proposal and hope to tear down the structures as we purchase them.

The City continues work with BLA and Browning Day on the cost to finish the regional detention plans and the final design of Grand Junction Plaza.

Special Events or Programs

Westfield Rocks the 4th (WR4)

Plans are being finalized for this year's WR4 event. The website is updated regularly so please visit it often for information updates. The Parks Department staff and Executive Committee volunteers are working hard to make this year's event more spectacular than last year. The event begins at 4PM on July 4th and the Fireworks begin at 9:45PM. Please consider volunteering. We have over 50 openings for volunteers. I hope you can join us.

Friends of the Westfield Bark Park

Westfield is a finalist for the second year, in the \$100,000 contest from Pet Safe for the development of a dog park. Please go to their website <http://www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark/>

And vote for Westfield every day until August 1st. You can vote twice, once using your email address and once using your Facebook.

Westfield in Bloom (WIB)

The four volunteer committees for WIB are very busy with this year's projects.

The Floral Committee: Judging for the floral completion will take place on June 23rd. We have more participants than we did last year.

As registrations come in we are using the City's flex map to populate the map with pink flowers. The public can use the map to know the locations of the gardens. This can be a self-guided garden tour.

The Community Committee's signature project is Plant a Row is in full swing. They planted the Kids Garden at the Farmer's Market and are maintaining 2 acres of gardens at Christ United Methodist Church. Community donations can be made at the Parks/WIB booth at the Farmer's Market or at Ameriana Bank.

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The Environmental Awareness Committee, This committee is promoting Adopt a Prairie at Freedom Trail Park. They had a work day on June 9th and another one scheduled for July 21st. They have prepared plant information and will work with the volunteers in maintaining the prairie throughout the year.

The Heritage Committee's main project this year is hosting "Voices from the Past". This will be our second year of offering this performance of some of Westfield's historical citizens. The performances take place in the Anti-Slavery Cemetery in Asa Bales Park and Old Friends Cemetery Park. We partner with the Westfield Historical Society and Westfield Players. This year we are host on two days. The performances on Friday during the day will be a school field trip, Friday evening performance will be disconnected for families and there will be Saturday performances. This is a ticketed event. More information will be coming.

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